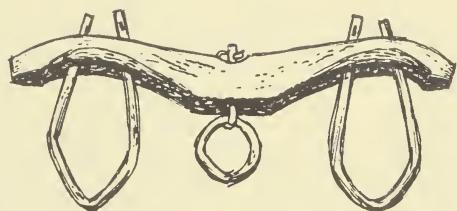


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The Service of dedication
of the monument erected
above the graves of
Thomas and Sarah Bush
Lincoln, father and step-
mother of Abraham Lincoln,
Old Gordon Cemetery...

LINCOLN ROOM



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
LIBRARY



A faint, light-colored watermark of a classical building with four columns and a triangular pediment is visible in the background.

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<http://archive.org/details/serviceofdedicat00lion>

N. 275. -

THE SERVICE OF DEDICATION OF
THE MONUMENT
ERECTED ABOVE THE GRAVES OF
THOMAS AND SARAH BUSH LINCOLN
FATHER AND STEP-MOTHER OF
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

ILLINOIS LIONS CLUBS

OLD GORDON CEMETERY
SHILOH CHURCH
NEAR JANESVILLE, ILLINOIS
FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1924

35 M. 2705

We tender to you this monument with the gladness of heart of every American who loves and reveres the name of Lincoln. May it stand here among you as a constant reminder to the world that the father and mother of a great man are recognized and remembered as having been the dominant force and factor in making that great man.

JOHN F. GARNER.

And we honor the rugged honesty, the simple dignity, the unpretentious piety, that characterized the home life of Thomas and Sarah Lincoln. WILLIAM E. BARTON.

The poverty of these pioneers was that kind of poverty in which sturdy independence thrived. FRANK O. LOWDEN.

And through it all (the life of Abraham Lincoln) was the influence of the father and step-mother—intangible but powerful: With his struggles came the knowledge of the value of a good heredity through the one and the help of environment through the other. He honored both.

WAYNE C. TOWNLEY.

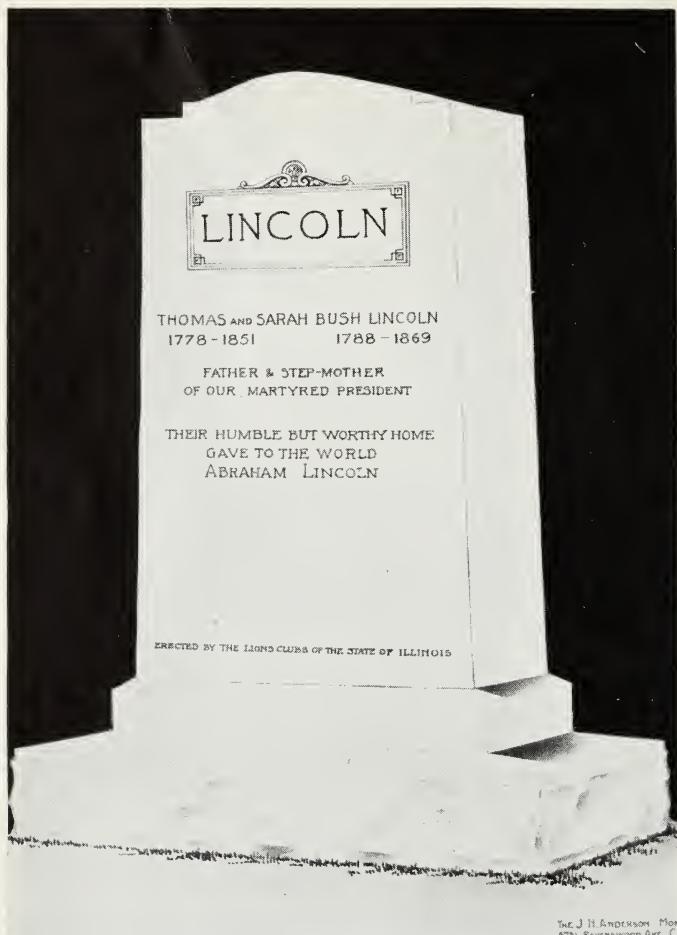
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IN MEMORY OF
THOMAS AND SARAH BUSH LINCOLN
WHOSE HUMBLE BUT WORTHY HOME
GAVE TO THE WORLD ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
THE LIONS CLUBS OF ILLINOIS
HAVE ERECTED THIS MEMORIAL

DEDICATION
FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1924

OLD GORDON CEMETERY
SHILOH CHURCH
NEAR JANESVILLE, ILLINOIS

Abelmewhite
Sent to me at Edward
Heights. Sandington, Mich.
Warren Abel White.
August 22. 1924.



Members "of that vanguard of hardy pioneers which builded
the mighty States west of the Allegheny Mountains."

FRANK O. LOWDEN.

PROGRAM of the SERVICE of DEDICATION

THE HON. WAYNE C. TOWNLEY, *Presiding*

MUSIC by the CHILDREN OF JANESVILLE and LERNA SCHOOLS

Hymn	“America”
Invocation.....	REV. MARION HULL, Mattoon Lions Club
Introduction of the District Governor of Lions Clubs.....	HON. BRYAN H. TIVNEN, Mattoon Lions Club
Address.....	“The Purpose of this Assembly” HON. WAYNE C. TOWNLEY
Address.....	“The Basis of Lincoln’s Greatness” HON. FRANK O. LOWDEN
Hymn	“Illinois”
Address.....	“The Parents of Abraham Lincoln” REV. WILLIAM E. BARTON
The Presentation of the Monument.....	JUDGE JOHN F. GARNER
The Acceptance of the Monument.....	MRS. SUSAN D. BAKER
The Unveiling of the Monument.....	DR. S. A. CAMPBELL, Mattoon Post No. 404, G. A. R.
The Benediction.....	REV. J. G. REYNOLDS, Shiloh Church



SARAH BUSH LINCOLN

This picture used through the courtesy of Frederick H.
Meserve, New York City

So far as known, no picture of Thomas Lincoln was ever made

INTRODUCTION

It has become a custom, and a good one, throughout the country to erect memorials to men who have played their part in the world's history or even in that of a community. One of the greatest characters upon the annals of not only Illinois but the entire nation is that of Abraham Lincoln. Monuments have been erected in his honor throughout the world.

When we honor these great lives that have gone before us, it seems altogether fitting that their fathers and mothers should also be remembered. It was Lincoln himself who declared, in substance, that all he was he owed to his mother.

On the Indiana division, near the little village of Janesville, Coles County, Illinois, eleven miles south of Mattoon, in a secluded country cemetery are two graves; a small headstone tells the passer-by that in these graves rest the remains of Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln, the father and step-mother of Abraham Lincoln. Thomas Lincoln died in January, 1851, and Sarah Bush Lincoln in April, 1869. These two graves in little Shiloh Cemetery have been practically forgotten, with the exception of a faithful few in that vicinity who have formed a memorial association to preserve the graves.

In the spring of 1923, Wayne C. Townley of Bloomington, Illinois, who is the district governor of the Lions Clubs of Illinois, was visiting the Mattoon Lions Club, and while in the vicinity he paid a visit to this cemetery. Not even a trail was marked so as to guide visitors to this historic place. Mr. Townley called the attention of the Mattoon local club to this apparent neglect. The suggestion was all that was necessary to cause the Mattoon Lions Club to become active. The members instituted a movement to mark a trail from Mattoon to Shiloh Cemetery, a distance of about fifteen miles. The trail was eventually marked by using an orange circle in which were written in dark blue the letters "T. L. T." (Thomas Lincoln Trail). This mark appears upon the telephone poles the entire distance. In addition, enamel signs about two by three feet were procured, which are posted along the way, directing tourists to the final resting place of Abraham Lincoln's parents. Also, where the road is not paved, it is now kept oiled.

At the international convention of the Lions Clubs at Atlantic City in June, a caucus of all the Illinois delegates was called by District Governor Townley, and the matter of raising funds to erect a suitable memorial over these two long-neglected graves was presented and unanimously indorsed by the delegates. Thereafter, the proposition was presented to every club in the state.

—(*Illinois Central Magazine*, February, 1924.)



HON. WAYNE C. TOWNLEY
Bloomington, Illinois
District Governor Illinois Lions Clubs

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ASSEMBLY

BY HON. WAYNE C. TOWNLEY

We are here to dedicate this monument erected in memory of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, the father and step-mother of Abraham Lincoln.

Illinois may well recall its contribution to that great life.

Here, in this State, were developed those talents which produced that great debater—the superior of a Stephen A. Douglas:

Here was developed that orator whose speeches are classed with the gems of the ages:

Here was inspired that patriot—ready to hold the horse of a vain McClellan, willing to bear the ridicule of a mistaken Greeley, satisfied to ignore the false clamor of a misguided minority; that this nation, of the people, by the people, for the people, might live:

Here he gave his “lost speech”—which pointed to his leadership in the Republican Party and paved his way to the Presidency:

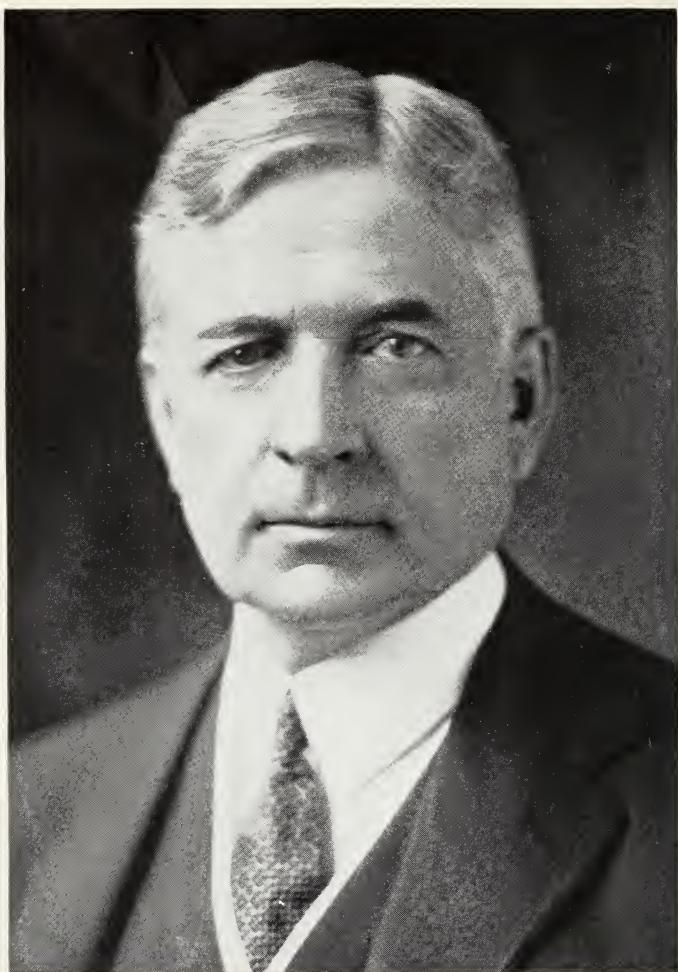
Here was developed from the rough, unlettered, unknown backwoodsman—the world’s greatest citizen:

Here was the training that gave to us the patient, wise, just, martyred leader who loved his country more than himself; his honor more than his station; his ideals more than his office:

And through it all was the influence of the father and step-mother—intangible but powerful: With his struggles came the knowledge of the value of a good heredity through the one and the help of environment through the other. He honored both.

We have come to this little country churchyard to pay tribute by the dedication of this granite, to these “whose humble but worthy home gave to the world Abraham Lincoln.” With this privilege comes the opportunity of saying these few words of long delayed appreciation.

These two belonged to Abraham Lincoln. “He belongs to the ages.”



HON. FRANK O. LOWDEN
Oregon, Illinois

Former Governor of Illinois

Honorary Member of Lions Clubs of Illinois, Affiliated
with the Bloomington Club

THE BASIS OF LINCOLN'S GREATNESS

BY GOVERNOR FRANK O. LOWDEN

Man always delights to invest his heroes with a mysterious origin. He loves contrast and finds joy in a paradox. He likes to set opposite the loftiest height which his hero has reached the humblest and least promising youth which he can assign to him. This suits man's sense of the dramatic. And so it came about that in the years following Abraham Lincoln's martyrdom many myths grew up about his ancestry, his early life, and even his own character and standing in the several communities in which he lived.

The truth about all these things is just now beginning to appear. We are fortunate today in having with us William E. Barton, whose tireless researches have done much to dispel the mists that have gathered about Abraham Lincoln's early life. Ida M. Tarbell has recently written a book called, "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns," which dispels many of the illusions surrounding Lincoln's forebears. We now know that the family from which he came had borne an honorable part in the history of America for almost three hundred years. We now see Thomas Lincoln, not as a so-called "poor white," a phrase which more often misleads than defines, but rather as a member of that vanguard of hardy pioneers which builded the mighty states west of the Allegheny mountains. We find too, in the light of modern research, that the family of Hanks likewise had a long and honorable record in the pioneer upbuilding.

Miss Tarbell says:

"But what is a 'poor white'? Poor whites are the backwash, not the vanguard of the pioneer army. In every onward movement into the wilderness there were those who, through bodily weakness, fear, discouragement, misfortune, dropped by the way. They were like soldiers, wounded or gassed in the front line trench beyond any future hope of active service. Without them the pioneer army could not have advanced as it did. They were part of the sacrifice that opening the new continent demanded.

* * * * *

Now the Lincolns and Hankses were of neither class. They moved ahead into the very heart of the Kentucky battle ground, and there planted themselves and withstood the perils and hardships of the early period. Moreover, as we shall see, the Hankses, like the Lincolns, kept the pioneer spirit. They pushed ahead with the vanguard which went later into Indiana and Illinois. They were never laggards behind, that is, they never were of the 'poor white' class."

That Thomas Lincoln and his family endured hardships and what would now seem severe privation no one will deny. That was the common lot of the pioneer, and the hardships and the privations of the Lincoln family were no exception. It is true that they lived in a simple little log house without the conveniences to which we are now accustomed. That too was the common lot of the pioneer. I myself for a time lived in one of these little log homes. I cannot recall though that we ever suffered loss of self-respect or ever felt any sense of inferiority from that circumstance. And then there were compensations to the pioneer. The wild beauty of a new and virgin land, the sense of freedom and adventure which always accompanied the pioneer, made life far richer than we are likely to suppose.

The Lincolns were poor, as nearly all the pioneers in the migration from the East were poor. But it was not the kind of poverty that corrodes or breaks the spirit. In the abundance of wild game, in the fruitfulness of the virgin soil, there was no place for the spectre of starvation. The poverty of these pioneers was that kind of poverty in which sturdy independence thrived.

It is very fitting, therefore, I think, to mark the grave and honor the memory of this pioneer who was the father of him whom Lowell called "the first American." It is also fitting at the same time to do honor to the memory of Sarah Bush Johnson Lincoln, the second mother of the great Emancipator, who sleeps here by the side of the pioneer father. Abraham Lincoln was fortunate indeed, that in his childhood and young manhood he should have come under the influence and been enfolded by the love of Nancy Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln. He himself, in words that will never die, confessed his infinite debt of gratitude to these two.

In this presence and on this occasion, one would be remiss if he did not seek to draw some lessons from the life of the illustrious son of Thomas Lincoln.

Principles rather than policies appealed to Abraham Lincoln. All great questions seemed to him to involve some moral quality. It was his habit, therefore, to resolve them into their simple fundamentals. It thus happens that many of his words are as apt and forceful today as when they were first spoken by him. In harmony with this thought I shall try to put before you some of the things for which Lincoln stood which directly apply, as it seems to me, to the grave problems with which we and all the world with us are confronted now.

On February 12, 1809, two men were born. They have been dust for many years. Yet each played a large part in the great world war that recently reached its close. These men were Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin. Darwin devoted his life to the study of material things. In that world in which he lived he found heredity and environment to be the controlling facts. Out of his study came the doctrine of the survival of the fittest. The *savants* of Germany made

that doctrine the cornerstone of a new philosophy which they called Kultur.

According to Kultur, the world belonged to the strong and to the strong alone. Might was right and the world was in the relentless grip of physical force. Justice, gentleness, righteousness, were words invented by the weak to protect themselves against the strong. To pity a foe was weakness, to spare him was a crime. Kultur was a denial of the moral law; was a blind faith in the power of the laws of life which Darwin had declared. The fatal defect in Kultur was that it assumed that Darwin's theory covered the entire philosophy of life. This was not so. He was accounting only for the material universe. He never denied so far as I have discovered that there was a larger world—the moral and spiritual world. Kultur overlooked this and took its fatal plunge.

Abraham Lincoln was born in a cabin in Kentucky. If heredity and environment had been all there was in human life we never should have heard his name. While Darwin delved in rocks to find vanished forms of life, Lincoln studied man. By them his sympathies were quickened; the moral depths of his being were stirred; the right and wrong of human conduct engaged his deepest thought. Just as the laws of physical being unfolded under the eye of the great scientist, so the laws of the moral universe disclosed themselves to the great man. Lincoln had never read *The Origin of Species*, but he knew that under the moral law an injury inflicted upon an inferior by a superior man reacts upon himself. He said:

“This is a world of compensation and he who would be no slave must consent to have no slave. And those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and under a just God cannot long retain it.”

Unconsciously Lincoln became the interpreter of the moral laws of society just as Darwin became the interpreter of the physical laws of life. Therefore Lincoln asserted that all men had the inalienable right to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Lincoln was as much at home amidst the play of moral and spiritual forces as was Darwin in the realm of mere matter. It was this moral grandeur to which Lincoln attained that made him the wisest of all men. For, after all, wisdom is largely a product of character. Men may be intellectually brilliant, indeed brilliant beyond compare, and yet be utterly lacking in wisdom. Where other men had views, Lincoln had convictions. Convictions come from the heart and not from the brain. And so whenever there arises a question of human liberty or of human rights, one may turn to Lincoln for an answer without inquiring as to the particular year in which he wrote. There is a perfect harmony running through all his utterances.

It is not strange that as Kultur was partially founded upon the doctrine of Darwin, so the Allies in the great war found their chief

inspiration in the life of Abraham Lincoln. For this great contest was a war between the material forces of the world upon the one hand and the spiritual forces upon the other. Where the Central Empires found comfort in The Origin of Species, the statesmen of England and France, and of Italy and the United States, read the Gettysburg speech and the Second Inaugural and thereby renewed their faith and refreshed their courage.

We have known ever since Lincoln's death that he was America's most perfect product, but we did not learn how much he meant to all the world until the great war came and civilization was threatened on every front. Then it was that in France or England or wherever the torch of liberty still burned and men were fighting for righteousness with their backs to the wall—then it was that the whole world turned to the words of Lincoln. Whether it was Lloyd George in the Parliament of England or Clemenceau in France, or wherever it might be, it was Lincoln's words that gave the highest inspiration to the forces fighting the battles of civilization. And so in our own country Lincoln loomed a mightier figure than ever before. During the most depressing period of the war, when our Allies were becoming war weary, whenever a mission from foreign lands visited America either to stimulate our activities or to renew their own courage, that mission made a pilgrimage to Lincoln's tomb. I was in Springfield when the French mission headed by Marshal Joffre visited that city. I drove with the great French soldier, who held the enemy at bay in the first Battle of the Marne, to the cemetery where lies Lincoln's dust. As I looked at the old hero and saw his streaming eyes and his trembling hands as he laid his tribute of blossoms upon Lincoln's bier, I thought I could see that he in that sacred presence had resolved anew "They shall not pass."

Lincoln truly served mankind because he loved mankind. Genuine service must always spring from the promptings of the heart, and is never a product of the will alone. It was the poet Lowell who said:

"How beautiful to see
Once more a shepherd of mankind indeed,
Who loved his charge, but never loved to lead."

And so he couldn't help giving his tenderest thought to the working man. He cared for him because he cared for all men. Everyone is familiar with his significant saying that the Lord loves plain people because He made no many of them.

With reference to the age old question of labor and capital, he declared:

"Labor is prior to and independent of capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the highest consideration."

That is but another way of saying that society should chiefly concern itself with the lot in life of the average man. And this is but saying, in another form, that Lincoln was a lover of humanity. The Declaration of Independence, to which again and again he turned in his thinking, included not only the right to life and liberty, but the right to the pursuit of happiness as well. And it is interesting to note that though Lincoln emphasized the right to liberty—for slavery was the dominant issue at the time—he never referred to the Declaration, so far as I can find, without coupling with the right to liberty the right to the pursuit of happiness. Life means much; liberty means much; but both fail unless life can be lived and liberty enjoyed under conditions of well-being. Any form of government is but a means to an end, and that end is the happiness of the individual.

I am sure that in our almost a century and a half of existence, since that great day of Independence, more men have lived happy lives in our country and under our form of government than in any other in all the history of the world. But the happiness and well-being of the average man and woman must be steadily advanced if our institutions are to endure. The economists may explain, the statesmen may excuse our failure to accomplish this, but the fact remains that our civilization will fail if the well-being of the men and women and children of America shall not continuously improve.

This cannot be, however, in my opinion, if we destroy private initiative in industry. For every invention, for every improved process made under the stimulus of private initiative, though the inventor may profit, society profits immeasurably more. A steadily reducing amount of human labor is all the time required to produce the necessities of life. If we shall abandon the ancient landmarks and substitute for private initiative and private industry a communistic state, the progress of mankind will be arrested and retrogression will set in. Again Lincoln speaks to us. It is a message for today:

“The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done but cannot do at all or cannot so well do for themselves in their separate and individual capacities. In all that the people can individually do as well for themselves, government ought not to interfere.”

He also warns us:

“Let not him who is houseless pull down the house of another, but let him labor diligently and build one for himself, thus by example assuring that his own shall be safe from violence when built.”

Lincoln's love of the Union was the guiding motive and the supreme passion of his life. He hated slavery, but he loved the Constitution more.

African slavery for years had been the great problem of the American people. Phillips and Garrison had lashed the conscience of

the North for permitting this national sin. The Union had long been held together by compromise. Lincoln saw that though there might be compromise on expedients there never could be compromise over principles. He announced,

“A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe that this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free.”

And yet when asked for his solution of the problem he was silent. He knew only that the law must be maintained, whether it guaranteed the integrity of the federal union or slavery. Phillips declared that the constitution was a “union with death and compact with hell.” Lincoln urged always that the constitution must be absolutely upheld both when it made for freedom and for slavery.

In his debate with Douglas, he said, in regard to the Fugitive Slave Law :

“I have never hesitated to say, and I do not hesitate to say, that I think under the constitution of the United States the people of the Southern states are entitled to a Congressional Fugitive Slave Law.”

Then came John Brown, that “noble suicide.” But Lincoln could not approve of Harper’s Ferry. There was no warrant for it under the law.

Lincoln was nominated for President over the protests of the extremists. Phillips published an article entitled, “Abraham Lincoln, the Slave Hound of Illinois.” In it he boasted: “We gibbet a Northern hound today, side by side with the infamous Mason of Virginia.” But Lincoln was elected. Maligned by the South, distrusted by the Abolitionists of the North, the months that intervened between his election and his inauguration were the hardest of his life. Sad, depressed and impotent, he quietly waited at Springfield, while all the forces opposed to his most cherished principle, the preservation of the Union, were mustering both South and North. He hated slavery but he loved the constitution. The federal union and its mission were the supreme passion and sublime faith of his life. With hands tied, he beheld the South, in the interests of slavery, and a large portion of the North, in the interests of peace, advocate a separation of the two. He witnessed the spectacle of Cabinet ministers conniving at secession. Sustained only by an abiding faith, he waited gloomily but steadfastly for the day when he should take command. Tardily the hour arrived. It was almost, not quite, too late.

It was impossible for Lincoln as President to foresee the emancipation of the slaves because the constitution protected slavery. He could only know that he had but one duty, and sadly and solitarily he set about that duty. In very truth, the sins of the fathers are visited upon the children. Slavery was a sin but it was the sin of the fathers.

Lincoln bowed his great shoulders to bear this sin. In his first inaugural address he said:

“I have no purpose directly or indirectly to interfere with the institution of slavery in the states where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so and I have no inclination to do so.”

Then there followed Bull Run, Shiloh, Antietam—these battles were all fought, not for the slave but for the Union. If any had been decisive for the Union slavery would have remained. But events are mightier than men. It was destined that slavery should perish forever from this continent. So the South must fight so well that the North should be compelled for its own preservation to free the slave. Lee was fighting for humanity, though he knew it not. Our Canadian brethren in our own Revolutionary war seemed to lose battles to the colonial forces. Though they could not see this, those disasters were their gain. The freedom of the English colonies was won for them by the American rebels in that great war. England learned a new colonial policy at the surrender of Yorktown, and our then Canadian foes became beneficiaries of Washington's heroic deeds. So, the noblest sons of the South now admit that Lincoln was the best friend they ever had. In very truth, “they are victors who have been vanquished by the right.”

Strange concatenation of events! Phillips, the inspired abolitionist, urging that the South be permitted to go; Greeley, the powerful editor, against a war of coercion; Lincoln, insisting that he was without power to interfere with slavery in the South; Lee, maintaining with force of arms the right to secession in the interest of slavery—yet out of it all comes the freedom of four million slaves. This glorious but unseen result was the fruit of Lincoln's performance of the duty of the hour.

When the emancipation proclamation was resolved upon, Lincoln solemnly made this confession to his cabinet:

“When the rebel army was at Frederick, I determined, as soon as it should be driven out of Maryland, to issue a proclamation of emancipation, such as I thought most likely to be useful. I said nothing to anyone; but I made the promise to myself and—to my Maker. The rebel army is now driven out, and I am going to fulfill that promise.”

And so today, to the many who believe that constitutional mandates can be easily laid aside and picked up again when the need is past, to all who believe that they are wiser than the men who framed that constitution and the form of government under which they live, I commend with all my heart the words and the deeds of Abraham Lincoln.

All through his writings runs the thought too that our cause was the cause of humanity. In his speech at Gettysburg he did not say:

"Let us highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish" *from the United States* but "from the earth."

His vision circled all the globe. His great heart was beating in sympathy with mankind everywhere.

How well he wrought I doubt if even he himself could fully understand. The American Republic has been an inspiration to the lovers of liberty everywhere. The Republic, during its almost a century and a half of existence, has had a mighty influence throughout the world. Its power has come from its success as a self-governing nation. Our influence has run around the globe because we have contented ourselves with being an exemplar to, rather than a ruler of, mankind.

Lincoln did preserve the Union *and* free the slaves. That Nation which he saved had grown so powerful in a little more than fifty years that it was able, in the supreme crisis of civilization, to turn the tide of the great world conflict. And as he prayed, so now may we have faith to believe that "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish *from the earth*."

And now the most important of all his precious teachings. And that is that no nation can endure which denies its dependence upon God. We need to recognize this truth as never before in all our history. Within the last few years we have had before our very eyes two attempts to replace a civilization founded upon righteousness, upon moral and spiritual concepts, with a purely materialistic and Godless structure. First, under the leadership of their philosophers Germany evolved the idea that the state could do no wrong. She had been marvelous in her achievements during the year which had preceded the war; she had shown an efficiency which challenged the admiration of the world; she had come to think that she had so far conquered matter in all its forms that she could rest her future upon a material base alone. And we know the result. We saw that no matter how well disciplined her legions, when those legions hurled themselves against less perfectly disciplined legions—moved and sustained, however, by a deep moral purpose—we saw her splendid legions dashed to pieces. And again at almost the same time another effort was made to build a civilization upon material concepts alone. This time it was in Russia that the effort was made. There they had taken as a basis for their new philosophy of government the principles of Karl Marx, which sought to resolve all things into material terms. Churches dismantled; the clergy were driven from the altar; and a civilization based upon purely material concepts was the thing attempted. The world knows the result. It now sees that it is just as impossible to rest a civilization upon a material base as it is upon the might of the sword alone.

There is this in common between the two attempts, the attempt of the German Militarists and the attempt of the Bolsheviks, and that is that each sought to eliminate all spiritual forces and all moral qualities from their respective schemes. And therefore it never seemed to me strange that the Bolsheviks, when they came into possession of Russia, should meet the ambassadors of Militarism at Brest-Litovsk upon equal terms and there frame a treaty of peace. Isn't it strange that with these two colossal failures staring us in the face we should need to be reminded by Lincoln that "it is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God?" Let me read you part of the Fast Day Proclamation which Lincoln issued in the darkest days of the war:

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown; but we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to God that made us:

"It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

"All this being done in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope authorized by the divine teachings, that the united cry of the nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings no less than the pardon of our national sins and the restoration of our now divided and suffering country to its former happy condition of unity and peace."

We are confronted with grave and perplexing problems. Civilization itself seems to some hanging in the balance. The world is drifting whither no man knows. How quickly all this would change if these words of Lincoln could only enter and hold the heart of the world in these troublous times.

The cause of democracy is the cause of humanity. Democracy concerns itself with the welfare of the average man. Lincoln was its finest product. In life he was its noblest champion. In death he became its saint. His tomb is now its shrine. His country's cause for which he lived and died has now become the cause of all the world. It is more than a half century since his countrymen, with reverent hands, bore him to his grave. And still his pitiless logic for the right, his serene faith in God and man, are the sword and shield with which democracy, humanity and righteousness everywhere oppose their foes.



REV. WILLIAM E. BARTON, D.D., LL.D.
Oak Park, Illinois
Honorary Member Oak Park Club

ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND HIS PARENTS

BY REV. WILLIAM E. BARTON

We have assembled to pay a tribute of honor and respect to the memory of a very humble man and woman. Large as is the company here convened, it is the minutest possible fraction of the number of those who constitute in reality the assembly of this occasion. An event of this character, relating so intimately to the life of Abraham Lincoln, cannot occur in any remotest spot in America and not attract the attention of the whole country. We are assembled in a place remote from the railway, and distant from any of the more populous cities, but this large company of those actually present serves to remind us of the interest of the many thousands of others focused this day upon this quiet spot.

We are gathered in a country churchyard, attractively situated on the high bank of a gently flowing stream, amid surroundings at once primitive and picturesque. Hard by is the little church, and around us are the graves, in their dates of occupancy both recent and remote, of the successive generations of the inhabitants of this neighborhood who for a century have found repose here. After life's fitful fever, if they knew such fever in the quiet of this community, they sleep well. The place is quiet, dignified, restful. It exhibits neither the display nor the neglect, one of which is apt to characterize our places of burial.

Such a spot as this held ever a solemn, an almost morbid, attraction for Abraham Lincoln. After he was dead, his widow remembered that a few weeks previous to his death, while he and she were at City Point with General Grant before the final campaign that forced the surrender of Lee, they took a drive one day, and coming upon a little country cemetery they went in and rested for a little time. The place seemed to them so beautiful, so restful, he said to her that he could wish that he and she might be buried in such a spot.

It was of such a churchyard, remotely situated in rural England, that Gray wrote his immortal poem, one line of which, Abraham Lincoln was accustomed to say, told the whole story of his life,—

“The short and simple annals of the poor.”

That line alone stands out rather too stark and forbidding. It reads better in its setting:

Beneath those rugged elms, that yew-tree’s shade,
Where heaves the turf in many a mouldering heap,
Each in his narrow cell forever laid,
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.

Let not Ambition mock their useful toil,
Their homely joys, their destiny obscure;
Nor Grandeur hear with a disdainful smile
The short and simple annals of the poor.

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
Await alike the inevitable hour;—
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

Abraham Lincoln loved the noble cadence of these accurately measured pentameter lines. He loved places like this. He himself visited this spot. Where our feet are standing, his feet have stood, and with like reason, that here he might honor his father. A kindred respect for his father, then dead, and for his step-mother, then living three and one-half miles from here, and now buried here beside her husband, brought Lincoln here, in February, 1861, that before leaving for his inaugural as President he might pay his respect to the two people whose dust is buried beneath this stone, Thomas Lincoln and his second wife, Sarah Bush Lincoln. We pay our tribute to this couple today, and to the first wife of Thomas Lincoln, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, who lies buried in Spencer County, Indiana.

Let us first record "the short and simple annals" of these three people, the father, the mother and the step-mother of Abraham Lincoln.

Thomas Lincoln was born on Linville Creek, in that part of Augusta which is now Rockingham County, Virginia, January 6, 1778. His father, Abraham, was a captain in the militia and his name appears with that title in the Augusta County records for 1777 and the Rockingham County records for 1779. Abraham Lincoln married, not Mary Shipley, as is claimed in many books, but Bathsheba Herring, the marriage license bearing date of June 9, 1770. Abraham Lincoln married but once, and not twice, as is often asserted, and his widow survived him many years. The family migrated to Kentucky about 1782, and Abraham was killed by Indians, not in 1784, as is usually stated, but in May, 1786. Thomas Lincoln, a lad of eight, saw his father murdered, and witnessed also the swift revenge of his older brother Mordecai, a lad of fourteen, who took careful aim through a crack in the log wall of the cabin, and shot the Indian who had killed his father. This tragedy occurred, not where Louisville now stands, nor in Washington or Hardin County, though all these sites have been shown to me as those where the pioneer Lincoln was killed. He was killed on Long Run of Floyd's Fork, and his unmarked grave is probably within the inclosure of a little church-yard even more primitive than that in which we are assembled, that of the Long Run Baptist Church, which stands upon land owned by the murdered man, Abraham Lincoln, the father of Thomas. Accompanied by other members of the Filson Club of Louisville, I have identified the Lincoln farm on Long Run, and the Lincoln spring and

the site of the Lincoln home, and have made what I regard as a close approach to proof of the location of the pioneer Lincoln's grave. It is not likely that any future investigation will be more thorough or will greatly modify this conclusion. Thomas Lincoln's father sleeps in a little cemetery in Jefferson County, Kentucky, near to the Shelby County line, and on the brow of an elevation overlooking the stream—a situation not unlike that of our own surroundings this very hour, here in Illinois.

Thomas was the youngest of three sons of Abraham and Bathsheba Lincoln, his brothers being named Mordecai and Josiah. He had also one older sister Mary, and a sister two years younger than himself, Nancy, born in Virginia, March 25, 1780. She married William Brumfield, in 1801, her mother, Bathsheba, being alive and signing the required document consenting to the marriage. Bathsheba later lived with this daughter, Nancy, on Mill Creek, in Hardin County, and is buried beside her. The grave of Bathsheba is not marked, and the exact date of her death is not known, but Nancy's grave has a tombstone which states that she departed this life at 7 o'clock, October 9, 1845, aged 65 years, 6 months and 14 days.

Thomas Lincoln, the youngest son of these two pioneers, Abraham and Bathsheba, removed from Kentucky to Indiana in the autumn of 1816, and to Macon County, Illinois, in the spring of 1830. He came to Goose Nest Prairie, three and one-half miles from this spot, in 1832, and lived there until his death, January 17, 1851.

His first wife was Nancy Hanks, who was born in Virginia about 1784. The exact date of her birth is unknown, and the books that profess to give it precisely base their declarations on no documentary proof. The Hanks family in that period kept no family records. She was approaching her twenty-third birthday when, on June 12, 1806, she married Thomas Lincoln. She was a tall, slender, and rather frail woman, of dark complexion, and a high forehead. From her, as he believed, her son Abraham inherited some of his best traits. She was a virtuous and worthy woman, and her son honored her memory. She died near Gentryville, Indiana, October 5, 1818, at the age of 35. Her grave is worthily marked, and is surrounded by a park, owned and maintained by the State of Indiana. Illinois, tardily following the example of her sister state, this day sends salutations from this sacred spot to the grave of Lincoln's own mother, yonder in the quiet repose of Southern Indiana.

Sarah Bush, a daughter of Christopher Bush, was born in Hardin County, Kentucky, December 13, 1788. She married, March 13, 1806, Daniel Johnston, the jailer of that county. There is a tradition that Thomas Lincoln had been a suitor for her hand before her first marriage; if so, she did not show good judgment in rejecting him. Her first husband died in October, 1818, leaving her with three small children and a very heavy indebtedness. On December 2, 1819, she married Thomas Lincoln. Her possessions in furniture were consid-

erable as compared with his, and as he had journeyed from Indiana back to Kentucky on horseback to court her, he had to borrow from his brother-in-law a wagon to transport her and her belongings, including her three children, to the new home in Indiana. From this incident it has been inferred that Thomas Lincoln owned no horses of his own at the time. On the contrary, he owned horses, one or more, and sometimes as many as four or five, from the time he reached the age of twenty-one until he left Kentucky. Moreover, and I have this story direct from Mrs. Bush's own relatives, she was unwilling to marry and leave unpaid debts behind her, and Thomas Lincoln was prepared for that emergency, and paid up her debts before their marriage. She has been greatly pitied for having married so shiftless a man as Thomas Lincoln, but that pity has been wasted. She needed a home and a husband quite as much as he needed a wife, and his two children and her three profited equally by the marriage. She died December 10, 1869, and her grave has never been marked until this day, that witnesses the unveiling of a suitable monument to the memory of herself and her husband.

Thus, rapidly, I sketch the outlines of these three lives, and I shall now take leave of chronology, and attempt some estimate of the home life of this unpretentious couple, and the influences that assisted in shaping the career of Abraham Lincoln.

The family from which Thomas Lincoln was descended was a thoroughly respectable family. It was of pure English descent, and came to America first by way of Massachusetts. In the Revolutionary War there were many colonial soldiers named Lincoln from Massachusetts and very few from any other state. Thomas Lincoln was of the sixth generation in descent from Samuel Lincoln, who was born in England about 1619 and settled at Hingham, Massachusetts, before 1640. Of the second generation, Mordecai, son of Samuel and Martha Lincoln, of Hingham, Massachusetts, was born June 24, 1657, and died at Scituate, Massachusetts, November 28, 1727. In the third generation, Mordecai, son of Mordecai and Sarah (Jones) Lincoln was born at Hingham, April 24, 1686, and died at Amity, Pennsylvania, May 12, 1737. In the fourth generation, John, son of Mordecai and Hannah (Salter) Lincoln, was born at Freehold, New Jersey, May 3, 1716, and died at Linville Creek, Virginia, in November, 1788. In the fifth generation, Abraham, son of John and Rebecca (Flowers) Lincoln, was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, May 13, 1744; married Bathsheba Herring, removed to Rockingham County, Virginia, where his three sons and two daughters were born, migrated to Kentucky in 1782, and was killed there by Indians in May, 1786. This is a line of pure English descent, and it is not known that at any point there was inter-marriage with any widely divergent strain. All of these American ancestors of Thomas Lincoln could read and write, and so could he; though his education was very meager. Like all names on the frontier, the name Lincoln was misspelled, but none

of the Lincolns misspelled it. I have seen hundreds of signatures and none of them spelled otherwise than Lincoln.

This was not a low-grade family. It was a good, average, undistinguished American family. The Lincolns in the hills of Kentucky were of the same stock as the Lincolns in the Blue Grass, and these were the same in lineage as those in Tennessee and Virginia, and of close kin to those in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.

I should like to correct a few of the wrong impressions of Thomas Lincoln.

The first is that he was cheated out of his share in his father's estate by the rapacity of his eldest brother, Mordecai. A number of sentimental books and some that are of more sober character have sobbed over this situation. The fact appears to be that as the elder Abraham Lincoln died intestate, his eldest son, Mordecai, inherited the entire estate under the old English law of primogeniture then in force in Virginia and Kentucky. But it seems to have been well understood in such cases that the eldest son, who only had standing in court, acted as guardian of the interests of the younger heirs. Indeed, Mordecai himself was but fourteen when his father was killed. The court records, of course, do not show the transactions between Mordecai and his brothers. But the records do show that when the second son, Josiah, came of age, Mordecai sold land that had been his father's, and Josiah bought land for cash. They also show that when Thomas came of age, Mordecai sold more land, and soon afterward, Thomas bought for 118 pounds, cash, 238 acres of land on Mill Creek, a farm, by the way, which all writers have erred about, but which has now been identified. Where did Thomas obtain 118 pounds? Presumably, from the settlement of his father's estate. There is no slightest evidence that he was wronged by his brothers.

I am not prepared at present to state just what title Thomas Lincoln had to his several farms, though this is a story I intend some time to relate. He had better color of title than any book now shows, and he had cash, not a vast sum, but an adequate sum, for each purchase.

I want also to refute the story that the Lincoln cabin was furnished in the most poverty-stricken fashion. I do not credit the stories of those who profess to remember this cabin, and either to have shared its luxuries or suffered its privations. I think all such stories imaginary. But we have the record of auction sales of a number of estates where Thomas Lincoln was present as a successful bidder, and he bought spoons, dishes and cooking utensils, as well as live stock and implements.

I want to relate one little incident, because it sheds a light on the character of Thomas Lincoln while he was still living in Kentucky. Rev. Louis A. Warren, to whom I am indebted for many discoveries of hitherto unknown facts about the Lincolns, discovered the report of the commissioners appointed by the Court of Hardin County

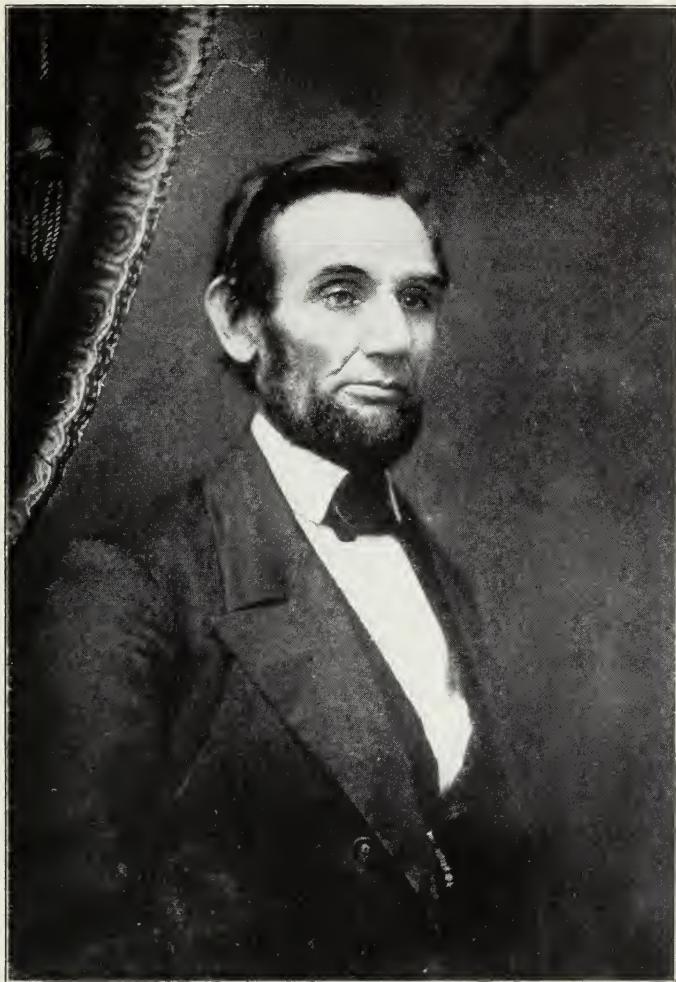
to settle the estate of Dr. Daniel B. Potter of Elizabethtown. He had died leaving a widow and a large amount due him in unpaid fees. He also left debts amounting to \$1,560.35 $\frac{3}{4}$. The commissioners were able to collect out of the accounts due him the total sum of \$864.89 $\frac{1}{2}$, leaving the estate still in debt \$695.46 $\frac{1}{4}$. The commissioners record the names of the men from whom they had been able to collect, and Thomas Lincoln is among them, having paid in full his small balance of \$1.46. It is a petty item, but it shows that when Nancy Lincoln needed a doctor she had one, and Thomas Lincoln paid his doctor's bills.

He paid his taxes regularly, and he left no unpaid debts behind him when he left Kentucky or Indiana or Decatur. He lived and died a poor man, thrifless, improvident and quite lacking in qualities that appeal to the imagination. But he was a good neighbor, a good father, a good husband.

I hold no brief for Thomas Lincoln. He was not a great man. But he was great enough to be the father of a man of outstanding greatness, and some of the qualities which made Abraham Lincoln great, his patience, his good humor, his kindness, his love of fun, he inherited from his father. We cannot afford to hold in light regard the man who gave to the world so great a son.

It is often alleged that Thomas Lincoln could not read or write until his marriage, and that his wife, Nancy Hanks, taught him to write. On the contrary, he could "bunglingly write his name" as his son Abraham said, before he was married, while Nancy made her mark. That she could read and write, we are assured by those who knew her: that he could do so we are assured by the fact that he did it.

It is often alleged that Thomas Lincoln was a religious vagrant. We are told on what appears to many to have been reliable authority of his going from one denomination to another. And we are told that it was his second wife, Sarah, who first induced him to unite with any church. On the contrary, Thomas Lincoln and his first wife, Nancy Hanks, were members of the Little Mount Baptist Church in Hardin County, Kentucky, and when a Baptist church was organized on Little Pigeon Creek in Indiana, he united by letter, and his second wife, Sarah Bush Lincoln, "by experience." In this church, he served as trustee, often as moderator, sometimes as referee in matters of dispute, sometimes as a messenger to other churches, and when he and Sarah departed to Illinois, they brought their church letters in their pocket. There was no Baptist church here within reach, and the Lincolns became interested in the preaching of Rev. Thomas Goodman, of Charleston, a minister in the Church of the Disciples of Christ. With that congregation, in their later years, Thomas and Sarah Lincoln were affiliated. Rev. Thomas Goodman preached the funeral sermon of Thomas Lincoln. I am reliably informed by some who heard it that it could be heard at a distance of half a mile. Mr. Goodman's sermon is not preserved, but he spoke highly of Thomas



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ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Lincoln as a neighbor, a friend and a consistent Christian man. Thomas Goodman stood here, where our feet stand this day, and committed to this dust the dust of Thomas Lincoln; and his old neighbors mourned for a man whom they held in high regard as an honest and kindly man and a good neighbor. People still are living who remember the funeral and the interment, and though they were children then and are aged now, we are glad of their testimony.

No one knew in 1851 that ten years later a son of Thomas Lincoln would be sitting in the President's chair; and the honors paid to Thomas at his death were strictly local, and such as would have been paid to any honest, well-intentioned citizen of this locality. Thirty-six years afterward, Rev. Thomas Goodman, being asked to relate for publication some of his memories of Thomas Lincoln, said:

"In his case I could not say aught but good . . . He was a consistent member through life of the church of my choice—the Christian Church, or Church of Christ, and was, as far as I know—and I was a very intimate friend—illiterate, yet always truthful, conscientious and religious."*

Thomas Lincoln was a farmer and a carpenter. He was not greatly skilled in either trade, but in neither was he wholly a failure. He was a fair, average country carpenter. He could frame a window or hang a door or build a chest of drawers and do it well. Skill in the use of tools ran in the Lincoln family. I have seen samples of the carpenter work of a number of the Lincolns, both of Thomas Lincoln and of his kinsfolk in Hancock County. They knew how to mortise and dove-tail and do the ordinary work that counted for skill in the carpentry of that day. The making of coffins was a large part of the work of the carpenter of that day. I have seen the account book of Thomas's nephew, the younger Mordecai. He made many coffins, as Thomas did. Six dollars was his charge for a full-sized coffin and three dollars for a coffin for a child. Under our feet in this cemetery many of the coffins of Thomas Lincoln have decayed with the dust which they inclosed.

Thomas Lincoln had some skill in farm surgery, and was sent for when neighbors had need of him. There are men living in this neighborhood who remember to have assisted him in some of these rude but effective operations.

The house where Thomas Lincoln died in 1851 and where his widow died in 1869 stood three and one-half miles from here. It was sold to a corporation just before the World's Fair in Chicago, and conveyed there for exhibition purposes. What became of it no one appears to know. But I have learned that Thomas Lincoln lived in that house only two days and one night. He lived in a round-log house on the same farm. A round-log house, you understand, is not

*Quoted by Hon. Joseph H. Barrett of Loveland, Ohio, in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* for July, 1894, (Vol. 48) pp. 327-8.

a round house, but a square house, or at least a rectangular house, built of round or unhewn logs. Round-log houses were the first homes of virtually all the pioneers. But the settlers aspired to live in square-log houses, that is, houses for which the logs had been hewn and better fitted, and with wall surfaces more nearly plane. Such a house Thomas Lincoln aspired to own and occupy, but, not being an ambitious or excessively energetic man, he did not hasten the matter.

At last the new house was erected, a house of two rooms with a fire-place between, and it was of hewn logs. But by the time it was finished, Thomas Lincoln was a sick man. His step-daughter, Matilda, set up a loom and did some weaving in the new house, but Thomas Lincoln lay sick in the round-log house near by.

On the day before he died, he grew restless, and insisted on being moved. So a bed was set up in the new house, and his step-son, John D. Johnston, and old Beniah Wright moved him to the new home. He looked around him in content. He saw the smooth walls, hewn with his adz and broad-axe, and he was rested by the sight. He was in his own new house. He slept there that night, and rested better than he had been resting. The next day he died. They held the funeral in the new square-log house; and Parson Goodman, standing in the open door, and preaching to the women and children inside and the men outside, was heard not only by both these congregations, but by every one else within a considerable radius, as I have already stated.

Thomas Lincoln was about five feet and nine inches tall, and weighed about 180 pounds. He had a well rounded face, smooth shaven. His hair was cut round on a level of the bottom of his ears; it was not shingled. He was muscular and compactly built, and had a slight stoop. He was jovial, slow in thought and in movement, good natured, but a dangerous man when angry. He was not a teetotaler, but was temperate in his use of liquor, and in that day was reckoned abstemious. He was friendly and kind, and had deep, grey eyes that sometimes lacked luster and then kindled with a deep light. He was known in this neighborhood as "Uncle Tommy" and later as "Grandfather Lincoln." His neighbors spoke well of him, and those here present who remember him will not recall from their childhood recollections anything to his discredit. He was not educated or learned or ambitious; he was not brilliant or of extraordinary ability; but he had good sense, sound judgment, a kind heart and moderate ability. He was reliable and worthy of respect.

Thomas Lincoln won the love of two good women. Nancy Hanks, the mother of his three children, was a slender, thoughtful young woman, with mirth and melancholy alternating in her character. From her, as Lincoln believed, he inherited his power of analysis, his intellectual alertness and his capacity for sustained thought. She was a religious woman, and when she was dying she told her children to love God and be kind to each other, an admonition which they

obeyed, holding her memory in high regard. The clods fell heavily on her whip-sawed coffin in the woods of Indiana, and her death fell as a cruel sorrow on the heart of her son Abraham. According to the custom of the country, the funeral service was held some months later when a traveling preacher named David Elkin was in the neighborhood.

The second wife of Thomas Lincoln, the second mother of Abraham Lincoln, was Sarah Bush, whose grave has waited 55 years for the monument which we erect today. But a monument has already been erected for her in the memory of those who knew of her influence upon Abraham Lincoln. She encouraged his love of learning, though she had none of it herself. She nurtured him in the simple virtues which she knew and practiced. She came to the home when the children, Abraham and his sister and their cousin, Dennis Hanks, were unkempt and ragged, and she washed and mended and patched and darned and brought cleanliness and comfort to the home. She was a true mother to Abraham Lincoln, and when he was about to leave his home and begin his duties as President of the United States, one of the few visits which he made out of Springfield between his election and inauguration was to the old home where he visited her, and to this spot where his father lay buried. Abraham Lincoln saw to it that so long as she lived, she had a home of her own, which even her improvident and importunate relatives could not take away from her; and in that home she lived until her death.

We are erecting this monument above the graves of very humble people. If anyone had called at the door of the round-log house over on Goose Nest Prairie and told Thomas and Sarah Lincoln that one day a monument like this would mark their grave, they would have been much bewildered. They could hardly have understood the information. But the monument is well deserved, and has waited all too long. The world has on the whole monuments enough, and some of them are of very doubtful value. But it has none too many that commemorate the virtues that we honor in these two untitled Americans, these two modest servants of God. In honoring them we pay honor again to Abraham Lincoln, and to his first mother, Nancy Hanks. And we honor the rugged honesty, the simple dignity, the unpretentious piety, that characterized the home life of Thomas and Sarah Lincoln.

The most ominous sign in the life of today is the disintegration of the American home. America will be strong in proportion as her home life is clean and united and virtuous and strong. The inscriptions on this monument are of the simplest possible character. They bear only the names of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln and the years of their birth and death, and one simple sentence. But that sentence is one of noble eulogy:

“Their Humble but Worthy Home Gave to the World
Abraham Lincoln.”



JUDGE JOHN F. GARNER
Quincy, Illinois
Former International Director of Lions Clubs

THE PRESENTATION OF THE MONUMENT

BY JUDGE JOHN F. GARNER

This day among the Lions of Illinois is one long to be remembered. We have here erected and dedicated a monument to the honored name of Lincoln. It matters not how poor a man may be or how rich he may be; it matters not whether his life be crowded with honor and success or whether he be obscure or is a failure as viewed by others; there is in the heart of every man an innate desire to have the last resting place of his progenitor suitably marked and cared for. This devotion is akin to the love for his own children, and upon such sentiments depend the safety of any nation.

It is written "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." We are not left to wonder or speculate as to their relative values for it is stated, the greatest of these is charity. But when the Great Ten Commandments were given, we were left to presume that they are all equally imperative. Today, however, one stands out in the minds of every one here, as a reason for our being here. "Honor thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." And we are here, not to honor our own fathers and mothers, but to honor the father and step-mother of Abraham Lincoln for his sake.

The Lions International demands above all else—Loyalty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety. Just so long as a people honor their dead, cherish and protect their living, will patriotism flourish and our nation's safety be secure by an intelligent civilization.

Misguided philanthropists oftentimes place the end to be attained on such a high plane they sacrifice the means of attainment and debauch the participants in the enterprise. No class of men in the world deplore war and the tragic consequences that follow in its train more than the Lions. But even war with all its evil consequences is better for a nation—better for the individuals who compose it, than that doctrine of the pacifists now insidiously being spread that we must not fight no matter what the issue may be.

The illustrious son of the man to whom this monument of stone is erected was the type of man who would injure no one and yet he recognized the fact that principle and right could not be sacrificed even to avoid war and without hesitation he called the militia to preserve the Union. He faced the issue of peace at the price of disintegration of the Union. Had he followed the peace at any price declarant of today, he would have lived to do the service the Lions are doing today in marking his father's grave. But he would have

sacrificed what was more precious to him than his life. He would have killed his self-respect in shirking a responsibility and murdered patriotism of posterity in America.

Better that he too should have given his life than that truth and right be crushed to earth. I cannot but feel if he had known in his lifetime that his end would be as it was, he too would have said that his only regret was that he had but one life to give for his country.

And so today, this band of faithful disciples of Abraham Lincoln are performing for him this service of suitably and permanently marking the graves of his loved father and respected step-mother, as he would have done had he lived. We are happy, each one of us who have participated in this event in any particular, to look toward his magnificent tomb and say to him that we are doing this for his sake as we know he would have done had he lived, and as we believe he would have us do. With all our pomp and ceremony, we do not presume to dedicate this beautiful monument to the memory of his father in the same manner he would have done. His act would be filled with the tender love of a dutiful son gratefully acknowledging parental care. We, who are strangers to his blood can but render the homage that our reason dictates and conscience commands. We have tried in our humble way to do this thing as he would have us do it. We have done this because Illinois gave him in service to the Country. Many illustrious men have come from Illinois, but none greater than the son of the man to whom this monument is dedicated. Oh! you other States of this United States, join with us when we sing:

“Not without thy wondrous story,
Illinois, Illinois,
Can be writ the Nation’s glory,
Illinois, Illinois.
On the Record of the years,
Abraham Lincoln’s name appears,
Grant, and Logan, and our tears,
Illinois, Illinois.”

If I could but impress upon my hearers and Lions everywhere, the value of the study of the lives of great men, then would I feel my participation in this day worth while. The arts and sciences are necessary in the education of man. But history and biography bind him so close to the past that he is able to understand the present and trust in the future. May we go from here with that determination to study the lives of all our great men and see to it that posterity saves at least some time from the pursuit of folly for the contemplation of the lives that have been worth while.

With this dedication today, the Lions of Illinois have finished their work of permanently marking this hallowed spot. The task has been well done and Lionism in this State and everywhere will rejoice in its completion. It is my simple task to officially turn over this mark of their esteem to the local association for future care. We

tender you this monument with the gladness of heart of every American who loves and reveres the name of Lincoln. May it stand here among you as a constant reminder to the world that the father and mother of a great man are recognized and remembered as having been the dominant force and factor in making that great man. We ask you to receive this into your care and keeping in the same reverent manner in which it is given and see to it that through the ages that may come that it may be maintained sacred to the memory of him in whose name it has been erected. Then indeed will we all have kept the faith.



MRS. SUSAN D. BAKER
Janesville, Illinois
President Lincoln Memorial
Association

ACCEPTANCE BY MRS. SUSAN D. BAKER

In the name of the Shiloh Lincoln Memorial Association we thank you for this beautiful monument. We accept it from the Lions Clubs of the State of Illinois with gratitude for their work in fulfilling the wish of Abraham Lincoln which he made by the side of his father's grave in February, 1861. We thank Mr. Wayne C. Townley for his assistance which made this possible.

It is a great day for us because you have fulfilled our hopes.

OFFICERS ILLINOIS LIONS CLUBS

WAYNE C. TOWNLEY, *District Governor*, Bloomington
ARTHUR GOTTSCHALK, *District Secretary*, Springfield

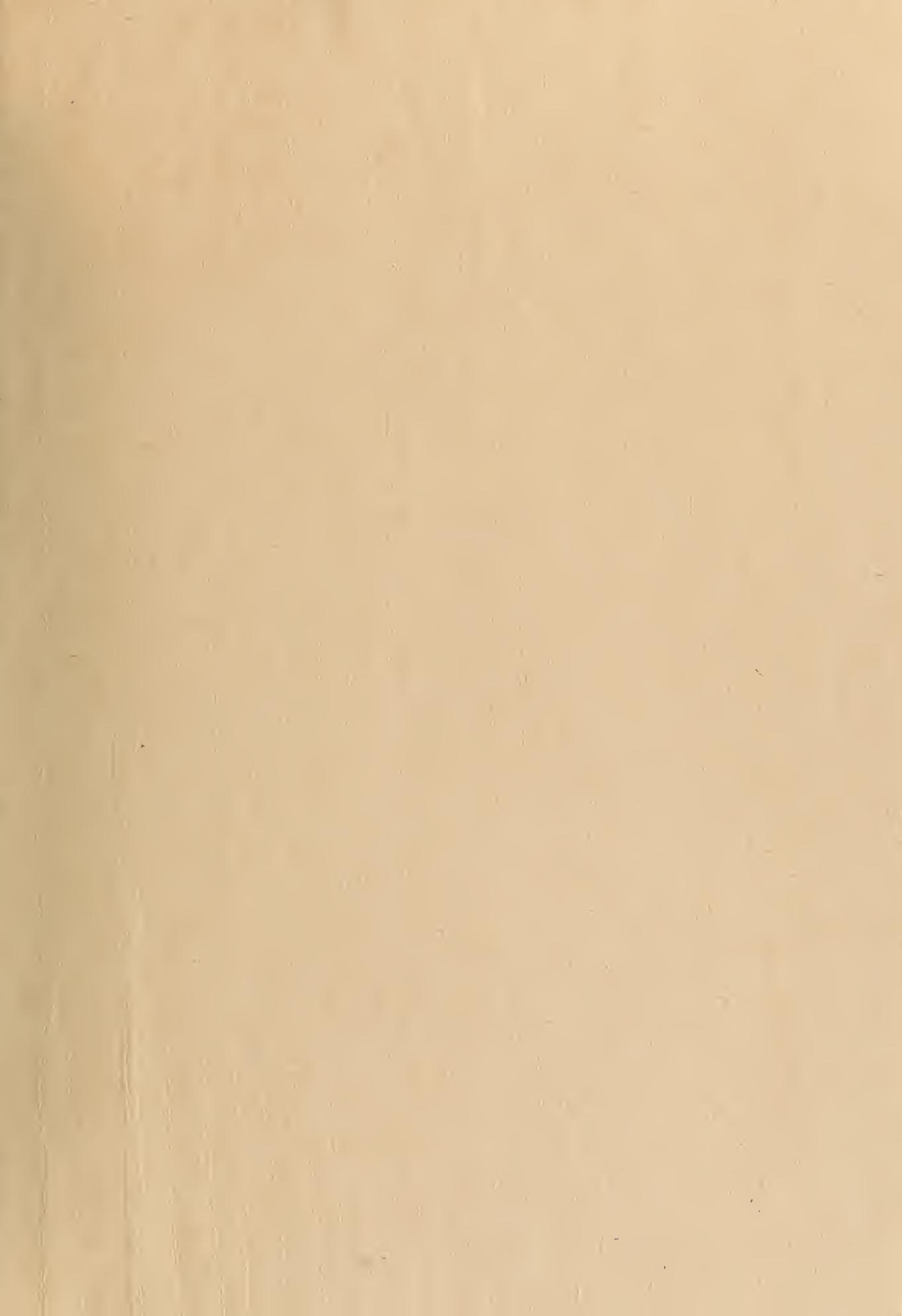
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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LOYD COX, West Frankfort
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J. S. WYATT, *Treasurer of Fund*, Bloomington

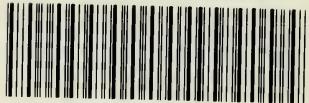
This monument has been erected by the Lions Clubs of Illinois through the contributions of the following clubs:

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Benton	Oak Park
Bloomington	Olney
Blue Island	Peoria
Carbondale	Pittsfield
Carterville	Quincy
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Elmhurst	Central Club
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